



2014 FNBA Young Leaders Program

The 6th group of the FNBA Young Leaders (former Young Ranchers) Program participated in the 2014 Five Nations Beef Alliance Conference and Tour held in Texas, United States from the 4 to the 10th of October, 2014.

In order to expand the scope of young participants in the program and to describe the main purpose of encouraging future leaders in the beef industry, the leadership of the Alliance decided to change the name of the “Young Ranchers Program” to “Young Leaders Program”. This allows the program to include not only young cattle producers but also young bright professionals that are involved in the beef industry.

In this opportunity, the group was fully integrated to the Alliance as delegates from their respective country organizations granting them equal participation as their senior delegates.

Eleven active young leaders from the five countries attended:

1. Blythe Calnan Australia
2. Sam Becker Australia
3. Brett McRae Canada
4. Stuart Sommerville Canada
5. Veronica Ferreiro Mexico
6. Esteban Kosturakis Mexico
7. Miguel Portillo México
8. James Bryan New Zealand
9. Lauren McWilliam New Zealand
10. J W Wood United States
11. Margaret Ann Smith United States



The group was coordinated by the Chair person of the FNBA Young Leaders Subcommittee, Jolene Noble from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and Barbara Wilkinson from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association of the United States (NCBA).

The activities started in Corpus Christi, Texas on Sunday, October 4th with an ice breaking lunch for the youth group. In the afternoon, they joined their respective country organization delegates to attend the General Opening Session of the Alliance.

The program of the next three days included visits to operations in south and central Texas:

- King Ranch in Kingsville.
- McFaddin Enterprises in McFaddin.
- Graham Land and Cattle Company in Gonzales
- Sexing Technologies in Navasota
- Capitol Land and Livestock Company in Schwertner
- 44Farms in Cameron
- HEB supermarket store in Roundrock
- Texas Beef Council in Austin



The FNBA Conference took place at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort in Bastrop, Texas on Thursday, October the 9th and Friday, October the 10th.



Esteban Kosturakis, Veronica Ferreiro and Miguel Portillo

Here are testimonies of some of the participants:

Brett McRae from Canada: “..... it was the best trip of my life! ...I was able to see amazing ranches...The best part was the people that I met.Not only was I included in very interesting, high-level beef industry conversations, but I was often asked my opinion!”

Lauren McWilliam from New Zealand: “The whole programme was a huge learning opportunity, I thoroughly enjoyed touring Texas, I was amazed how different it compared to NZ. What was learnt on the tour was then highlighted in the formal conference. It is a great initiative and I felt very privileged to be a part of the programme.”

Blythe Calnan from Australia wrote: “To meet people from the USA, Canada, Mexico and New Zealand that are facing the same challenges and others that we have not even encountered yet made the world feel like a smaller place. To recognize that we are not just competitors but comrades, and that having a healthy global beef industry is good for us all, is going to be an important part of our future as we all battle our way through finding more profitable, environmentally sensitive, welfare conscious and sustainable systems.”

